

Congressman Steve King today announced a \$150,000 federal appropriation for the City of Spencer has been included in H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. President Obama signed the legislation into law Wednesday.

Funding will continue design and construction of the combined sewer separation projects critical to eliminate the overflow of sewage into the basements of Spencer residents during major thunderstorms. Spencer continues to dedicate significant funding toward separating storm and sanitary sewers over 100 years old. These sewers serve one-third of Spencer residents.

“Sewer overflows are a critical issue facing many Spencer residents and families,” King said. “I am pleased we were able to secure this funding, and I will continue to work on addressing this issue in the future.”

In requesting funding for this project, Congressman King complied with all earmark transparency standards, including a Congressional record submission that includes the name of the request and a description of how the funds will be spent.

When Congressman King initially requested the funding in early 2008, he did so with the understanding that his requests, and those of other members, would be addressed by the House through the normal appropriations process. Instead, all member requests were lumped into a single, 1,222 page, \$410 billion spending bill that was written behind closed doors, with no legislative review or formal member input. The bill was made available for public scrutiny less than 48 hours before Members voted on it.

As a result, Congressman King opposed H.R. 1105 during House consideration of the bill on February 25. The \$410 billion “omnibus” spending bill significantly expands the federal deficit and funds the federal government for a mere seven months. That’s over \$58.5 billion in taxpayer dollars per month.